

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 019954

73

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

IGA-01 EB-07 OES-03 MC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE:CRJ

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

AF- MR. BLAKE

AF/E - AMB. HUMMEL

S/S- JPMOFFAT

PM - MR. VEST (INFO)

----- 069698

O 282047Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S CALL ON SECRETARY

REFERENCE: STATE 018612

1. IN CALL ON SECRETARY JANUARY 27 FONMIN KIFLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S RECEIVING HIM, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PMG TO SEEK MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

2. KIFLE TOLD SECRETARY THAT, IN VIEW TRADITIONAL ETHIOPIAN-U.S. RELATIONS, PMG WANTED FONMIN TO EXPLAIN TO HIM PERSONALLY (A) PURPOSES AND DIRECTION OF "FUNDAMENTAL AND DRAMATIC CHANGES" IN ETHIOPIA OVER LAST SEVERAL MONTHS; (B) PMG'S WISHES FOR FUTURE OF ETHIOPIAN-U.S. RELATIONS; AND (C) SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM IN HORN OF AFRICA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 019954

3. INTERNAL CHANGES. KIFLE SAID CHANGES RELATE SOLELY TO INTERNAL FACTORS AND ARE NOT DIRECTED AT ANY EXTERNAL FACTOR. CHANGES ARE MAINLY TO IMPROVE INTERNAL CONDITIONS, TO PROMOTE BETTER SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FRUITS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TO PRODUCE A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT BY GETTING ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN GOVERNMENT.

4. U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. KIFLE COMMUNICATED EPMG'S

APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH USG HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE ETHIOPIA AND EPMG'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS BASED ON MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS IN AREA OF HORN OF AFRICA. NEW REGIME HOPED RELATIONSHIP WOULD GROW ON BASIS OF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY AND ASPIRATIONS. KIFLE CONVEYED EPMG'S HOPE THAT USG WILL INCREASE ITS DROUGHT, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN RECOGNITION OF GROWING REQUIREMENTS OF ETHIOPIA, AND THAT JOINT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE HELD AS NEEDED TO DETERMINE HOW BEST USG CAN RESPOND MOST EFFECTIVELY TO ETHIOPIA'S REQUIREMENTS.

5. SECURITY PROBLEM. KIFLE REFERRED TO "FUNDAMENTAL AND ABRUPT CHANGES" IN HORN OVER PAST FEW YEARS GIVING RISE TO UNCERTAINTY AND INSECURITY WITHIN ETHIOPIA. PRESENT CONCERN RESULTS PRIMARILY FROM USSR'S GIVING WEAPONS TO SOMALIA IN A QUANTITY AND OF A SOPHISTICATED QUALITY PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN IN AREA, THUS UPSETTING TRADITIONAL BALANCE OF POWER. KIFLE STATED EPMG HAD HARD INTELLIGENCE SOMALIS PLANNED TO INITIATE HOSTILITIES AGAINST ETHIOPIA, WITH MAIN QUESTION THAT OF TIMING. FOR THIS REASON EPMG HAD SET JUNE 1975 AS DATE WHEN ETHIOPIA MUST BE FULLY PREPARED TO MEET EMERGENCY AND WHEN ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUESTED OF USG SHOULD BE DELIVERED. KIFLE ASSERTED THAT SOMALIS HAD DECIDED SUPERIORITY IN BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE WEAPONS. HE CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIA HAD NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY IN ANY AREA AND ITS DEFENSE WAS ALARMINGLY POOR. ALL WEAPONS REQUESTED OF USG ARE DEFENSIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 019954

6. IN REPLY SECRETARY TOLD KIFLE THAT USG BELIEVED STRONGLY IN CLOSE U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, AND WAS DELIGHTED THAT EPMG RECIPROCATED OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES. HE SAID THAT WE WERE SENDING "ONE OF OUR BEST PEOPLE" TO ETHIOPIA AS AMBASSADOR, WHO WOULD CARRY OUT OUR POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SKILL AND DECISIVENESS. SECRETARY REITERATED THAT WE WANT TO DEVELOP OUR RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA JUST AS

FONMIN HAS DESCRIBED EPMG'S DESIRES. TO THIS END WE WISH TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS, WE WERE PREPARED TO EXPAND OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOV'T, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO ANY CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS.

7. KIFLE DID NOT RAISE DETAILS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE EPMG HAS REQUESTED OF US, BUT HE DID STRESS URGENCY IN MEETING JUNE DEADLINE FOR ALL DELIVERIES. FONMIN WAS TOLD THAT WHILE WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO BE HELPFUL AND WISHED

TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE, EVEN WITH BEST OF GOOD WILL IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET ALL ITEMS TO ETHIOPIA BY JUNE. (NOTE: STATE AND DOD REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH KIFLE SPECIFIC ITEMS, AND WHERE WE STAND WITH RESPECT TO EACH, LATER IN WEEK. WILL SEND REPORT OF MEETING TO EMBASSY.)

8. AS MEETING CONCLUDING, KIFLE SAID THAT PMG WAS WORKING ON LONG-RANGE PROGRAM FOR MODERNIZATION OF ITS ARMED FORCES. THIS WAS SEPARATE PROGRAM, FOR WHICH EPMG HOPED USG WOULD BE WILLING TO BE COOPERATIVE AS IN PAST. KIFLE ADDED THAT EPMG WOULD LET US KNOW WHEN PROGRAM TAKES FINAL SHAPE. SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT FINAL PROGRAM LOOKED LIKE. IN PRINCIPLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT AND WILL TRY TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE, AGAIN SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS.

9. IN REPLY TO SECRETARY'S QUESTION KIFLE SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE HERE ANOTHER 2-3 WEEKS TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE WE STAND ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEFORE HE LEAVES. SECRETARY WISHED FONMIN PERSONALLY AND HIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 019954

COUNTRY WELL. KIFLE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF MEETING.

10. IN FORTHCOMING CALL ON PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE CHARGE IS AUTHORIZED CONVEY SECRETARY'S PERSONAL BEST WISHES TO CHAIRMAN AND TO DRAW UPON SECRETARY'S RESPONSES TO FONMIN AS APPROPRIATE. CHARGE SHOULD EXPRESS TO CHAIRMAN SECRETARY'S PLEASURE IN MEETING WITH FONMIN AND PARTICULARLY IN RECEIVING THROUGH FONMIN EPMG'S ASSURANCES OF DESIRE FOR CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH USG. CHARGE SHOULD REEMPHASIZE THAT WE TOO WISH TO CONTINUE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED WITH ETHIOPIA AS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THIS BY CONTINUING OUR MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND DROUGHT ASSISTANCE, BY BEING AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE IN MOVING AHEAD WITH ARMS PACKAGE FOR EPMG AND

BY ASSIGNING TO ETHIOPIA AS AMBASSADOR ONE OF OUR MOST OUTSTANDING FSO'S. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE ON DETAILS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HOPE TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROGRAM.

11. SUBJECT TO CHARGE'S DISCRETION HE MAY WISH TO RAISE WITH CHAIRMAN EMBASSY'S GROWING FEELING OF CONCERN OVER UNEASINESS ON PART OF SOME PCV'S AND OTHER AMERICANS IN COUNTRY, AND URGE THAT EPMG, IN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE TENSIONS, ISSUE STATEMENT OR TAKE SOME OTHER ACTION TO

MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT DESIRES CONTINUATION OF PC PROGRAM AS BEING IN ITS INTERESTS.

12. ADDIS 1031 JUST RECEIVED. CHARGE ALSO AUTHORIZED TO RAISE GENERAL THREAT TO SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED THAT TELEGRAM. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE019954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBCOOTE:CRJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0729
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750113/aaaaalii.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 018612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER'S CALL ON SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US, (KIFLE WODAJ0)
To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006